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COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Sixth session
Vienna, 28 April-9 May 1997
Item 9 of the provisional agenda*

TECHNICAL COOPERATION, INCLUDING RESOURCE MOBILIZATION, AND COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES

Statement submitted by the World Organization of the Scout Movement (World Scout Bureau), an international youth non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (category II)**

The Secretary-General has received the attached statement,*** which is circulated in accordance wit h paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

*E/CN.15/1997/1.

**The views expressed in this statement are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations Secretariat.

***The statement has been reproduced without formal editing.

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The resolution and declaration set forth below are submitted by the World Organization of the Scout Movement (World Scout Bureau) on behalf of the participants in the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, held at Vienna in November 1996. They are based on the discussions held by the following non-governmental organizations and network of non-governmental organizations that participated in the Working Group on Youth Crime Prevention and Juvenile Justice:* Juventud Latinoamericana por la Democracia (Argentina), the Namibia National Youth Council (Namibia), TEJO Madagascar (Madagascar), Coordination nationale des organisations de jeunesse (Niger), Association burundaise pour le bien-être familial (Burundi), the Tobago Youth Council (Trinidad and Tobago), the Singapore Scout Association (Singapore), the German Federal Youth Council (Germany), the International Law Students Association (United States of America), Association nationale des guides d'Haiti (Haiti) and the International Association of Juvenile and Family Court Magistrates (France); and the Alliance of Non-governmental Organizations in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (New York and Vienna) (global network including some 100 non-governmental organizations).

Vienna Declaration on Youth Crime Prevention and Juvenile Justice

The World Youth Forum of the United Nations System,

Recognizing the efforts undertaken by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to work towards implementing the existing rules and guidelines in the field of juvenile justice (the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules), the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (The Riyadh Guidelines) and the UN Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty);

Acknowledging the joint efforts of the Commission, its secretariat and the relevant expert group in developing a programme of action on juvenile justice, which, *inter alia,* will propose a set of measures to ensure an appropriate response to juvenile delinquency and aim at identifying priorities of action;

Appreciating the joint efforts of the Commission and its secretariat to assist the Member States in the implementation of the relevant articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (General Assembly Resolution 44/25);

Recalling resolution 3/1 of the Commission, which is aimed at eliminating violence against women and children;

Drawing attention to the relevant section of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (paragraphs 86 to 90, General Assembly Resolution 50/81);

Welcoming the increasing acknowledgment by the Commission of the work being done by non-governmental organizations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice;

Further recalling the spirit and fruitful cooperation of the representative of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division of the Secretariat with young representatives from international youth non-governmental organizations within the Working Group on Youth Crime Preventi on and Juvenile Justice at the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, held at Vienna in November 1996.

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*The report of the Working Group is available upon request from the Alliance of Non-governmental Organizations in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Vienna).

1. *Has the pleasure of submitting* to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice the annexed Vienna Declaration on Youth Crime Prevention and Juvenile Justice, adopted by all participants in the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System at its second session in November 1996;

2. *Requests* that all Member States, as well as United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations will seriously take note of the young people's recommendations contained therein;

3. *Urges* all Member States, as well as United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to act accordingly;

4. *Hopes* that the Commission will duly take the results of the Working Group on Youth Crime Prevention and Juvenile Justice as a positive example of how young people can positively contribute to the work of the United Nations in general and the efforts in the field of youth crime prevention and juvenile justice in particular.

ANNEX

Vienna Declaration on Youth Crime Prevention and Juvenile Justice

We, the participants in the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System,

Recalling the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for th e Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules), the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (The Riyadh Guidelines) and the United Nation s Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty,

Reaffirming the principles of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond , especially paragraphs 86 through 90 concerning the field of youth crime prevention and juvenile justice,

Emphasizing our vision of prevention, where we take into account that young offenders always are victims as well, if not at present then in the future,

Hereby proclaim the need to uphold the principles of the present Declaration on Youth Crime Prevention and Juvenile Justice, and recommend that the United Nations, in cooperation with youth, youth non-governmenta l organizations and intergovernmental organizations, take the necessary action to achieve the following objectives:

1. To ensure that hopelessness and desperation, as well as difficult economic circumstances, are no longer ignored, these being the main reasons for juveniles becoming offenders as well as victims in the first place;

2. To make widely known that imprisonment is not the adequate solution to ensure that juveniles in difficult circumstances are (re-)integrated into society;

3. To give (youth) non-governmental organizations or groups of non-governmental organizations the right to have access to those young offenders who are already in prison;

4. To spread knowledge about the United Nations system and its funct ioning, especially with regard to youth crime prevention and juvenile justice;

5. To create more concrete influence for yo uth non-governmental organizations in United Nations decision-making bodies;

6. To work together towards the establishing of a global networking system in the field of youth crim e prevention and juvenile justice;

7. To join forces and use the proposed networking system for lobbying Governments;

8. To promote training seminars for juvenile justice professionals (judges, prosecutors, police, la w enforcement personnel, social workers) and concerned adults (parents, teachers, religious leaders, youth leaders , political opinion leaders and media professionals as well as law-making professionals);

9. To support the creation of training programmes with the help of additional specialists from regiona l institutions, independent research groups and individual experts;

10. To work towards the realization of projects which were agreed upon by the Working Group on Yout h Crime Prevention and Juvenile Justice of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System.